AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-25. (Canceled)

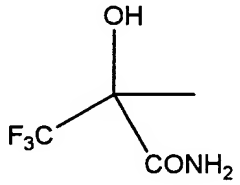
26. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence

which:

(i) hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said stringent hybridization conditions include hybridization at temperatures of between 60°C and 70°C and a salt content of 0.5 to 1.5 M; and

(ii) encodes a polypeptide having amidohydrolase activity capable of hydrolysing (R) -3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hyroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the

formula:



VI

27. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 26,27 or 28~~,28,29, or 30~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 32 wherein~~26 wherein~~ said vector is pPRS7.

34. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 32 wherein~~26 wherein~~ said vector is pPRS4.

35. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 32 wherein~~26 wherein~~ said vector is pPRS2a.

36. (Currently Amended) A microorganism containing the recombinant vector of claim 32~~26, 32, 33, 34, or 35~~.

37. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 36 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genus *Escherichia, Pseudomonas, Comamonas, Acinetobacter, RhizobiumlAgrobacterium, Rhizobium, Bacillus, Rhodococcus* or *Agrobacterium*.

38. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 37 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is *Escherichia coli* DH5.

39. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 38 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is XL1-Blue MRF'®.